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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 21 April 1955

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1. Col. White held a meeting with the Comptroller, Chief of Logistics and Mr. Pforzheimer to discuss steps to be taken in preparing for the appearance before Congress in support of the CIA request for a building. After talking with Mr. Smart, Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee, I reported that the Military Construction bill hearings would commence before the House Armed Services Committee and that House Committee action at least will be completed before hearings were commenced before the Senate Armed Services Committee. As Mr. Smart can best judge the situation at present the Committee will continue its consideration of the National Reserve bill until it has been completed. It will then move on to consideration of the doctor draft act and two other medical bills, following which it will take up the Military Construction bill. Mr. Smart's best estimate is that the Military Construction bill hearings will not start until 9 May. At that time the full Committee will hear testimony from the Defense and service Secretaries and the senior military people. It will also be determined at what point there will be a hearing in support of the CIA authorization. I will keep in close touch with Mr. Smart on this matter.

Col. White has asked Mr. Garrison to prepare all of the supporting data which the Director or whoever testifies on the bill will need in making a presentation, and Mr. Garrison will prepare a preliminary text which he will then coordinate with Legislative Counsel for discussions with Mr. Kirkpatrick.

In addition, the General Counsel will discuss with the General Counsel of the General Accounting Office the possibility of CIA financing the building cost out of unobligated Fiscal 1953 funds. CIA has a sufficient unexpended balance from Fiscal Year 1953 to finance the building, but this money will lapse on 1 July 1955. It is not available for new obligations unless the Comptroller General will rule that he will release it for a new obligation if and when Congress specifically authorizes its use for this purpose.

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2. Mr. Foley, of the Department of Justice, informed me, in response to my question, that if H. R. 3882 regarding the registration of persons having knowledge of foreign intelligence activities becomes law, the Department of Justice does not propose to require the Department of State to affix questions to visa applications designed to ascertain whether the applicant falls within the Act. Mr. Foley pointed out that this was a criminal statute which will be used against those violating it, but will not require the Department to check on each visa applicant.

3. I talked with Cong. Curtis (R., Mo.) concerning his letter of 10 March 1955 to the Director, requesting certain general information regarding the Soviet transport system and our comments regarding the report of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report concerning Trends in Economic Growth. I informed Mr. Curtis that we were not in the position of briefing Congressional Committees or individual members, but that Mr. Dulles wished me to give him certain background information for his own personal use. The Congressman appreciated the courtesies on this matter.

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